Serial No.: 09/885,580 Patent Application

Atty. Docket No.: 11603.4004

REMARKS

Applicants would initially like to thank the Examiner for indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-17, as indicated on page 7 of the Office Action.

The Office Action rejects claims 18-24 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over J. V. Evans, "Satellite Systems for Personal Communications," Proceedings of the IEEE, Vol. 86, No. 7, July 1998 ("Evans") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,239,767 to Rossi et al. ("Rossi"); claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Rossi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,915,020 to Tilford et al. ("Tilford"); and claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Rossi and further in view of U.S. Patent App. No. 2003/0133423 by LaDue ("LaDue").

Claims 2-17 and 29-44 are now in the application. Claims 18-28 have been canceled. Claims 29-44 have been added. Allowance of new claims 29-44 is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-28 have been rejected under a variety of grounds. By the present amendment, claims 18-28 are canceled, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 29-44 have been added to further define that which Applicants regard as their invention. No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of new claims 29-44 and allowance of the same is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly.

If a telephone conference would be of value, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Serial No.: 09/885,580 Patent Application
Atty. Docket No.: 11603.4004

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee

deficiencies/overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Case # 11603.0037).

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: March 18, 2005

Scott D. Watkins

Attorney for Applicants Registration No.: 36,715

Customer No. 27890 STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP 1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20036-1795 (202) 429-6439 (202) 429-3902 (Fax)